

PATENT APPLICATION 10/026,403
ATTORNEY DOCKET: 72167.000570

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9-13, 17 and 20 are amended, and claim 22 is added.

No new matter is presented by this Amendment. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in the Abstract and in paragraphs 0009, 0012, 0021, 0041-0048, and 0094 of the published patent application US 2003/0105981 and in the drawings, for example.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

A. The 35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection

In the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Office Action asserts that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter, and that it is not tangibly embodied as it is only software per se. The Office Action suggests that the claimed subject matter "computer executable software code ..." should be changed to "computer executable code stored on a computer-readable medium ...".

Applicant has amended the claim in response to the Examiner's comments and suggestion. It is respectfully submitted that the claims satisfy all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection is respectfully requested.

B. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta et al. (hereinafter Gupta) United States Letter Patent Number 6,226,752 further in view of Makower et al. (hereinafter Makower) United States Publication Number 2002/0184507. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the various reasons set forth below.

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1. Clarification of the 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection is Requested

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under the applied art is improper.

As set forth in M.P.E.P 706.02(j), 35 U.S.C. 103 authorizes a rejection where, to meet the claim, it is necessary to modify a single reference or to combine it with one or more other references. M.P.E.P 706.02(j) indicates that after indicating that the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. 103, the Examiner should set forth in the Office Action:

(A) the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line number(s) where appropriate,

(B) the difference or differences in the claim over the applied reference(s),

(C) the proposed modification of the applied reference(s) necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and

(D) an explanation why one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make the proposed modification.

M.P.E.P 706.02(j) references the well known requirements of *Graham v. John Deere*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 U.S.P.Q. 459 (1966). Further, M.P.E.P 706.02(j) notes that it is important for an Examiner to properly communicate the basis for a rejection so that the issues can be identified early and the Applicant can be given fair opportunity to reply.

With respect to the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis of the rejection is unclear under the analysis of *Graham v. John Deere*. Specifically, the Office Action, in particular, asserts (on page 5) that as per claims 1, 10 and 11 Gupta teaches a method for validating credentials comprising: determining, at a first system that grants session credential based on successful authentication at the first system or successful

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authentication at a second system, that a client does not have a valid session credential by the first system (Col. 7, lines 2-3; Col. 11, lines 46-49 and lines 65-66) .

However, the Office Action asserts on page 6 that "Gupta does not explicitly disclose a first system that grants a session credential." Accordingly, as should be appreciated, such statements as set forth in the Office Action are inconsistent. Further, the analysis under *Graham v. John Deere* is indeed based on such inconsistent statements. Thus, Applicant submits that the analysis under *Graham v. John Deere* is deficient.

Based on such deficiency, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is requested.

2. The Motivation Set forth in the Office Action is Unsupportable

Applicant respectfully submits that the motivation as set forth in the Office Action fails to support the proposed combination of applied art.

The Office Action sets forth on page 6, that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Gupta to include a method comprising a first system that grants a session credential. The Office Action asserts that the modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by, Makower (Page 1, paragraph 8) in order to protect confidential information and reduce inconvenience for the user/client in having to remember different authorizations for different servers; and that a user that is authenticated in a first server can access a second server without repeating the authentication process at the second server.

Applicant submits that such motivation is deficient in that both Gupta and Makower indeed provide such capability without any such modification. That is, Gupta teaches (in the

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Abstract) that one or more embodiments of the Gupta invention externalize the authentication mechanism from the application in the form of a login server; and only the login server needs to be configured to handle authentication mechanisms. On the other hand, Makower teaches (in the Abstract) the Makower invention generally relates to the field of secure centralized single sign-on and session maintenance for web servers on the Internet; and an implementation there is a centralized server that provides for the transparent sign-on, session management, and session termination within each server in the federation of servers, and each federated server communicates with the central sign-on server.

Accordingly, the very basis of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection relies on an asserted alleged need to Gupta. However, Gupta simply does not have such need, i.e., Gupta teaches only the login server needs to be configured to handle authentication mechanisms.

Based on such deficiency, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is requested.

3. The Applied Art Fails to Teach or Suggest the Claimed Invention

Applicant submits that the teachings of Gupta and Makower, either alone or collectively, fail to teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 recites a method for validating credentials comprising determining, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the first system or successful authentication at a second system, that a client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system; retrieving, at the first system, information from a session token held by the client, the information corresponding to a possible session credential for the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system; the first system presenting at least some of the information from the session token to

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the second system; and the first system determining whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system; and determining at the second system whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the first system, so as to authenticate at the second system.

Accordingly, claim 1 recites various particulars relating to the first system determining whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system. Further, claim 1 recites determining at the second system whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the first system, so as to authenticate at the second system. Accordingly, such features reflect the nature of the invention and the advantages provided thereby. For example one advantage of the invention, as discussed in the application, is to provide a method and system to support cross-system authentication and credentialing, while maintaining the advantages of single system authentication and credentialing. The features of claim 1, i.e., the claimed invention, reflect such cross-system authentication and credentialing.

Applicant submits that Gupta and Makower fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention as recited in claim 1, either alone or collectively. Telltale of the differences between the claimed invention and the applied art is reflected in the centralized authentication of the applied art. That is, as noted above, Gupta teaches (in the Abstract) that one or more embodiments of the Gupta invention externalize the authentication mechanism from the application in the form of a login server; and only the login server needs to be configured to handle authentication mechanisms. On the other hand, Makower teaches (in the Abstract) the Makower invention generally relates to the field of secure centralized single sign-on and session maintenance for web servers on the Internet; and an implementation there is a centralized server

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that provides for the transparent sign-on, session management, and session termination within each server in the federation of servers, and each federated server communicates with the central sign-on server. Neither Gupta nor Makower teach the cross-system authentication features as recited in claim 1.

Instead, for example, Gupta teaches in column 12, lines 13-24, that if there is no valid session, an application server redirects the client's request to a login server at step 306. To redirect a request, the application server sends a redirect message (with the login server's URL) back to the client's browser. The redirect message may also include the application's URL, a cookie for the application, and a temporary identifier. When a browser receives a redirect message, the browser automatically sends a request to the specified URL (e.g., the login server's URL) without any interaction from the user along with any existing cookies (or tokens) for the specified URL.

Further, Makower teaches, in paragraph 10, in an Internet implementation, a single sign-on protocol for use by web servers places minimal requirements on browsers, independent of the actual authentication mechanism used by any of the individual web servers accessed by the user. Makower describes authentication itself is decentralized in this protocol, however, there is a centralized server that provides the means for transparent sign-on and session management within a federation of servers. Users authenticate themselves with any one of a group of federated servers, each federated server communicates with the central sign-on server so that a user with a current session does not need to be reauthenticated by other servers in the federation.

In paragraph 0029, Makower teaches the client browser 42 is redirected to the central

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sign-on server 32 (step 208), query string parameters are preferably received by the central sign-on server 32: the operative federation identification, the challenge, and the web server's public identification (step 210). Makower goes on to describe after receiving the information (step 210), the central sign-on server 32 attempts to recognize the client browser 42 (step 212). In one implementation, the central sign-on server's attempt to recognize the client browser 42 is via a cookie on the client browser 42. In this implementation, if no such cookie exists on the client browser 42, then the client browser 42 likely has not established a session on any of the servers of the federation (step 214).

Further, in paragraph 22, Makower teaches in the preferred implementation, each federation of servers has one server that is designated as the central sign-on server 32. The central sign-on server 32 may be co-located with one or more of the federation servers, or it may be a stand-alone server providing only the central sign-on function. In this implementation, the central sign-on server 32 has a securely encrypted communication channel with client browsers 42, 44, 48 and with all servers in the federation, for example via HTTPS (HTTP over SSL). The individual servers within the federation of servers may or may not be able to communicate with each other, however, each server in the federation has means to communicate with, and to authenticate the identity of clients/users.

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However, these various teachings of the applied art fail to suggest or teach the specifics of claim 1, and the cross-system authentication features as discussed above and recited in claim 1. Accordingly, even if it were obvious to somehow combine Gupta and Makower, which it is not admitted to be, such combination would still fail to suggest or teach the claimed invention.

4. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection is Unsupportable

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth above. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-12, 13, 17 and 20 recite patentable subject matter for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Further, the various dependent claims recite patentable subject matter at least for their various dependencies on the independent claims, as well as for the additional subject matter such dependent claims recite.

New claim 22 has been added to recite further novel features of the present invention.

C. Conclusion

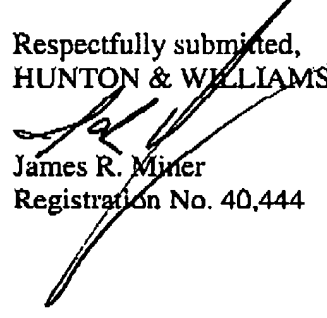
For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

For any fees due in connection with filing this Response the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

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Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
HUNTON & WILLIAMS


James R. Miner
Registration No. 40,444

Hunton & Williams
1900 K Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500

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